

**I CLAIM:**

1           1. A strapping machine comprising:  
2           a housing;  
3           a mount on the housing attachable to an overhead  
4 balancer line;  
5           tensioning and sealing devices in the housing;  
6           an elongated handle pivotal about an axis on the  
7 housing between an open position and a closed position and having  
8 an outer end remote from the axis and an inner end close to the  
9 axis, the inner end of the handle being formed with an annular  
10 inlet passage and a radially throughgoing inlet port opening into  
11 the inlet passage, the handle also being formed with axially  
12 extending passages extending from the inlet passage to the outer  
13 handle end;  
14           a pneumatic motor in the outer handle end;  
15           a transmission in the inner end of the handle and  
16 connected to the motor and to the tensioning and sealing devices  
17 in the housing;  
18           an inlet fitting on the housing connectable to a  
19 compressed-air supply line; and  
20           a conduit having one end connected to the housing and  
21 communicating with the inlet fitting and an opposite end opening  
22 radially inward into the inlet port of the handle, whereby  
23 compressed air from the inlet fitting can flow through the  
24 conduit and the inlet port to the inlet passage and thence via  
25 the axial passages to the motor to power same, the outer handle  
26 end being formed with an outlet opening for venting air from the  
27 motor.

1           2. The strapping machine defined in claim 1 wherein  
2 the axial passages are formed by axially extending and radially  
3 inwardly open grooves in the handle and by an outer surface of  
4 the transmission radially inwardly closing the grooves.

1           3. The strapping machine defined in claim 2 wherein  
2 the handle is formed at the outer handle end with a annular  
3 outlet passage into which the axially extending grooves open and  
4 that in turns opens into the motor.

1           4. The strapping machine defined in claim 3, further  
2 comprising a seal compressed radially between the rotor and an  
3 inner surface of the handle and positioned between the outlet  
4 passage and the inner handle end.

1           5. The strapping machine defined in claim 1 wherein  
2 the handle has at its outer end and end cap formed with the  
3 outlet opening.

1           6. The strapping machine defined in claim 5, further  
2 comprising  
3 sound-deadening material forming a muffler in the cap  
4 between the cap and the rotor.

1           7. The strapping machine defined in claim 1 wherein  
2 the inlet fitting is closely juxtaposed and aligned with a center  
3 of the mount, the conduit being fixed on the handle and the one  
4 end of the conduit being rotatably connected at the axis to the  
5 housing, the machine further comprising:

6           a valve block in the housing connected between the  
7 inlet fitting and the one end of the conduit.

1           8. The strapping machine defined in claim 7 wherein  
2 the conduit has one end extending parallel to and offset from the  
3 axis and fixed to the handle and another end extending on the  
4 axis and rotatably seated at the axis in the valve block.

1           9. The strapping machine defined in claim 8 wherein  
2 one of the arms is provided with a flow-adjusting valve.